



**Distington Big Local Ltd /Partnership Board Meeting
24 January 2017, 3-5pm
Distington Community Centre**

Present: Rhoda Robinson (Chair), Julia Powley, Norma Pritt, Josephine Greggain, Pat Nelson, Annette Whitehead, Karen Hodgson, Carl Cooper, Sue Hunter, Paul Tharagonnet, Bridget Johns, Alan Lowe, Ingrid Morris (Minutes), Pete Duncan

Apologies: Christine Pattinson, Alison Jackson, Alison Boyd, Hollie Dennis (PCSO), Shelley Hewitson

1.17 Welcome The chair welcomed everybody.

2.17 Conflict of Interests None.

3.17 Minutes of Previous Meeting Were passed as a true record. It was noted that the annual review had not yet been put onto our webpage and social media, *Action: Alan/Ingrid*. Clarification was sought from previous minutes regarding a new Bus Stop, this would be on Prospect View, near Myers & Bowman.

4.17 Housing Report – Andy Lloyd Andy talked through some of his report outlining his findings for the potential for community led housing development in Distington. There is a need for consultation to ascertain if housing is what the residents would like on the site and if so what type would be possible in that size of site. Harriet's care home in the village has recently closed so there may now be a need for sheltered housing. Carbon neutral 'Passive Houses' and dementia friendly homes may be an option. Also creating long term income for the village through some sort of energy scheme (i.e. solar / wind) to help fund whatever project the village decides on, is a possibility.

There are also currently 40 empty properties in the village which we might consider buying and renovating at a low cost (working with students at Lakes College?). Currently there are funding streams available to work on renovations, and recuperation of some of the costs could come through rental income.

Somebody asked if we needed to set up a Community Land Trust to carry out works mentioned above but this wouldn't be needed as we could do it through Distington Big Local Ltd. If we wanted to further explore the possibility of developing the site we could apply for (external) funding to pay for a Project Manager with expertise in this field and an Architect to scope out the site. If, after thorough community consultation, residents felt the proposals didn't meet the needs of the community, this type of funding would not have to be repaid.

5.17 Actions & Matters Arising

Defibrillator This is now up and running. We are required to carry out weekly checks and report to the Ambulance service on these checks once a month via their online system. The question was raised whether we should set up a Rapid Response team in the village. *Action: Ingrid / Alan*

to ask at the up coming Heart Start training sessions if people are willing to volunteer for this, depending on response we could also consult via social media , posters etc.

Training Session for Company Directors This was put together by Julia and went very well.

6.17 Policy Review We have drawn up draft policies on: Data Protection, Equal Opportunities, Disciplinary & Grievance procedures. Members advised that these seemed to be fit for purpose. If there are any suggested amends they should be forwarded to Alan / Ingrid by the end of the week.

7.17 Big Local Land Action Plan We need to set up a group made up of Board Members and others to plan what processes we go through, where funding will come from and how to consult with residents. This group need to report back to the Board in a few (3/4) months' time. *Action: Alan to set up a Land Action Plan Group.* Regarding the horses currently grazing on the land, the Board voted in favour of asking our solicitor to draw up a letter to the owner of the horses. In this the horses' owner will be advised that he can continue to graze them on the land until we ask him to leave with 7 days notice. *Action: Alan to contact our solicitors.* The land directly behind No. 10 Church Road has in the past been leased to No. 9. No. 10 would like to purchase the land as their garden. *Action : Alan to make enquiries into the current/past arrangements of this parcel of land, and advise the new Land Action Group who will decide if DBL Ltd should lease, sell or keep hold of this land (for our own development) .*

8.17 Development Workers' Report Alan put together a brief summary of the work carried out in the past year, including completed projects, ongoing projects and new projects. The issue of a community bus for the village has been raised again, however we are unable to fund individuals and we will continue to refer people to our Transport Fund and Cumbria County Council's individual & community transport schemes.

9.17 Treasurers' Report We currently have some under spend from our last plan which means our coffers are not empty, we are waiting approval for our new plan, and our application to be our own LTO (Locally Trusted Organisation).

10.17 Sub Group Recommendations The Community & Environment sub group recommended that we continue to fund Citizens' Advice for another year. The Board voted to support this, at a cost of £10,126.

11.17 AOB – Training Pete Duncan advised that Ewanrigg Local Trust were interested in setting up a joint training session with ourselves and Barrow Island on recruiting more volunteers & and getting more young people involved. Big Local may be able to provide a training budget for this. The Board is in favour of training with the other 2 Trusts, PD will try and organise something and let us know the outcome.

Board Meetings The Chair has suggested the Board meet every other month, with the Sub Groups meeting in the months between. If needs be, the Board can always call an extraordinary meeting. It was suggested the Sub Groups be given a discretionary budget to spend without the Board's approval, as long as that spend is within the overall vision of DBL Ltd. *Action: Alan to put a proposal together for the Board to approve.*

Sub Groups Norma has joined the Land Action Plan sub group and resigned from the Residents Wellbeing sub group. Sue Hunter has joined the Residents Wellbeing sub group. DBL Land Action sub group members to date are: Norma Pritt, Rhoda Robinson, Julia Powley, Alison Boyd, Karen Hodgson, Alan Lowe & Pete Duncan.

Date of next Board Meeting: Tuesday 4 April 2017, 3:30-5:30pm at the Community Centre